



CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION  
2600 FRESNO STREET, ROOM 3070  
FRESNO, CA 93721  
(559) 621-8400, FAX (559) 488-1078  
[www.fresno.gov/code\\_enforce](http://www.fresno.gov/code_enforce)

Property Owner  
Mailing Address  
City, State Zip

Date  
Case No.  
Parcel No.  
Parcel Location

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## **Subject: Notice of Weed Abatement Inspection Deadline – April 15, 2005**

Dear Property Owner:

This is your official notice of the 2005 Spring/Summer, city-wide, Weed Abatement Inspection program. This inspection program will begin on April 15, 2005. According to the Fresno Municipal Code, Section 9-804, all vacant and unimproved lots and lots with vacant structures are required to be free from public nuisance violations throughout the year. The standards and requirements are as described on the reverse side of this notice.

There will be no further notice. During fire season (April 15 - September 15) if your property contains any of the violations which are listed on the reverse of this notice, the City will hire a contractor to remove them. You will then be billed for the cost of this cleanup plus the City's administration fee. These costs average between \$500 to \$1000 per incident. In **addition**, you may be issued a citation for the violation(s). Citations can range from \$200 to \$800.

If you receive an invoice from the City for the code violation related cleanup and/or citation you will have 30 days from the date of issuance to pay the invoice. If you are unable to pay the invoice within 30 days, you will need to contact our Billing Section at (559) 621- 8317 to make payment arrangements. If payment is not received, the unpaid amounts may be sent to a collection agency, added to your property taxes as a special assessment, or a lien may be placed against your property.

If you have any questions regarding this notice or if you need more information, please call the Weed Abatement Message line at (559) 621- 8448 to leave a message. Please provide your name, contact telephone number, and the Case and Parcel numbers (shown on the top right hand section of this letter). You can also check out Weed Abatement information, a listing of parcels and other pertinent information on the Department's web site, [www.fresno.gov/code\\_enforce](http://www.fresno.gov/code_enforce). If you are no longer the owner of this property please contact us at (559) 621- 8448 so that we may update our records.

Thank you in advance for being a responsible property owner.

Sincerely

Weed Abatement Team, (559) 621 8448  
Code Enforcement Division

## PROPERTY CODE VIOLATIONS and WEED ABATEMENT STANDARDS

### CODE VIOLATIONS

The following is a summary of the common code violations related to property maintenance.

- 9-804 (a)** Failure to remove rubbish and/or junk. This includes garbage, scrap metal or lumber, concrete, asphalt, tin cans, tires, and piles of earth.
- 9-804 (b)** Failure to remove combustible material or debris that constitutes a fire hazard.
- 9-804 (c)** Failure to remove or legally store abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable vehicles or vehicle parts.
- 9-804 (d)** Failure to remove weeds, sagebrush, puncture vines, tumbleweed, poison oak/ivy, and/or dry grasses from property.
- 9-804 (e)** Failure to remove dead, decayed or hazardous trees or residue from fire or demolition which constitute a public hazard.
- 9-804 (f)** Failure to secure all attractive nuisances including vacant structures on the property against entry. This includes vacant houses or commercial buildings, garages, sheds, crawl spaces, etc.
- 9-804 (h)** Failure to legally store or remove automotive or recreational vehicle(s) on or from the property
- 9-804 (i)** Failure to maintain yard landscaping such that it can create a fire hazard or provide obstructions to traffic or a blight to the neighborhood.

### WEED ABATEMENT STANDARDS/GUIDELINES

The following are minimum abatement standards for vacant and unimproved lots and lots with vacant structures. The City of Fresno may require additional or more stringent abatement on some properties because of problems with terrain, land use, growth, location, or the fire history of the property. These standards apply to all combustible rubbish, weeds, grass, or other vegetation that is normally dry during the year, particularly in the summer.

#### All Properties

The following areas are also to be included in the abatement program: alleys, sidewalks, park strips, or unimproved easements abutting the property. For all of the areas on or abutting the property you are required to:

- Remove all rubbish, trash, trimmings, litter, tires and combustible waste material,
- Disc all weeds, grass, brush, or other combustible vegetation according to the discing standards provided below.
- Remove all grass and other cuttings after mowing, hoeing or cutting.
- Remove all sagebrush, chaparral, tumbleweeds, and other brush or weeds which, when dry can pose a fire hazard.
- Remove all tumbleweeds (completely disced under or removed by hand) from the property on a year-round basis.

#### Discing Standards

All discing work shall be completed so that all weeds, grass, crops or other vegetation or organic material that could be expected to burn shall be substantially turned over so that there is insufficient fuel to sustain or allow the spread of fire. Handwork, including mowing, weed-eating or hoeing, may be utilized for the removal of weeds along fence lines where discing may not be possible, so that these areas are free and clear of growth and dead vegetation. For parcels over 5 acres, in lieu of discing the entire parcel, firebreaks may be provided in such a manner that no single fire area shall exceed five (5) acres. **Firebreaks shall be a continuous strip of land which is clear of all combustible weeds, grass, stubble, rubbish, or other material which would allow the travel of fire.** Firebreaks may include fire-resistant vegetation, such as irrigated crops, ice plant, green ivy, and other live plants recognized by the City of Fresno as being fire resistant. The following are additional firebreak requirements:

- Provide 30 foot wide firebreaks around all combustible structures and storage.
- Provide 30 foot wide firebreaks along each side of all roads accessible to the public and around all brush areas.
- Provide 15 foot wide firebreaks along each side of all fence (property) lines, ditches and creeks. Any parcel which is adjacent to developed property must have 30 foot wide firebreaks along the fence (property) lines.
- Graded fire roads (not less than 15 feet in width) may be done in lieu of 15 feet of width of disced firebreaks where specifically approved by the City of Fresno.
- Abandoned orchards, vineyards, etc. shall be completely abated.
- Non-irrigated pasture land being used for grazing must have 30 foot wide firebreaks with substantial cross-discing.

#### Vacant Structures

- Make sure all windows are intact, and board-up those that are broken
- Make sure all doors are locked or nailed shut.
- If your property is fenced, make sure all planks or links are in good condition.
- If you board-up your structure(s), please do so with solid sheets of wood—scraps tend to be torn off easily.
- Secure all structures (garages, sheds, accessory buildings) on your property—not only the house.